

Golden, Colorado
June 23 - 26, 2005



School Science Bowl

2005 National Middle





Introduction

The Department of Energy (DOE) has sponsored the National Science Bowl for 15 years. Since its inception, more than 80,000 high school students have participated in this science education enrichment event. Because this event had been so successful, the Department of Energy Office of Science decided to pilot a Science Bowl for middle school students in 2002. There were seven regional events that first year, with 140 teams participating throughout the Nation, with the winning teams of those regional events participating in the National Middle School Science Bowl finals in Washington, DC, March 21-23, 2002. The event included a day of academic competition and a day of "hands-on" science and engineering, in which the teams designed, built, and raced model solar cars. Awards were given for both the academic and "hands-on" competitions. The responses from students and teachers were overwhelmingly positive to continue with this middle school event.

In the following years, the Middle School Science Bowl has been able to expand the number of teams each year: in 2003 there were 16 teams; in 2004 20 teams; and in 2005 we expanded to 24 teams. Those 24 teams are from 22 different states. The National event, scheduled for June 23-26, 2005, in Golden, Colorado, will be hosted by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the Colorado School of Mines, and co-sponsored by General Motors (GM). NREL is the primary laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development, and the National Middle School Science Bowl will include a number of educational enrichment activities unique to NREL and GM. Because this is the World Year of Physics, there will be a teacher workshop facilitated by instructors from DOE's Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Laboratory. Teachers will be provided physics lessons and materials to take back to their classrooms.

There are two competitions at the National Middle School Science Bowl — an academic math and science competition and a model hydrogen fuel cell car race. The academic competition is a fast-paced question-and-answer contest where students answer questions about earth science, physical science, life science, math, and general science. The model hydrogen fuel cell car activity challenges students to design, build, and race model fuel cell cars.

Any current public, private, or home school is welcome to form a team and participate in a regional Middle School Science Bowl. The regional champions from participating sites receive an all-expense paid trip to Golden, Colorado to participate in the national event.

Solving the Puzzle of Life



2005 National Middle School Science Bowl

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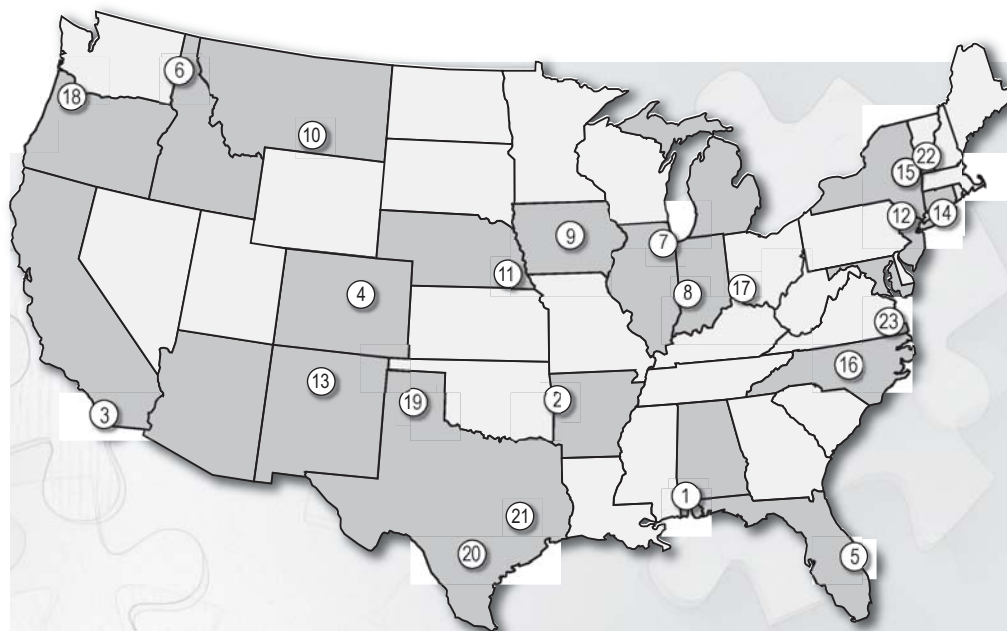
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2005 Middle School Science Bowl

Facilities Hosting Regional Events



Alabama

1. Alabama School of Math & Science

Arkansas

2. University of Arkansas – Fort Smith/Southside High School

California

3. NOBCChE – San Diego Regional

Colorado

4. National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Florida

5. Florida Solar Energy Center

Idaho

6. Northwest Regional – Post Falls, Idaho

Illinois

7. Argonne National Laboratory/CNH

Indiana

8. Indiana State University

Iowa

9. Ames Laboratory

Montana

10. Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake

Nebraska

11. Natural Resources Conservation Service

New Jersey

12. Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

New Mexico

13. Sandia National Laboratories

New York

14. Brookhaven National Laboratory
15. GE Global Research Center & KAPL, Inc.

North Carolina

16. Students Fueling the Future

Ohio

17. NOBCChE Midwest/ Wayne State University

Oregon

18. University of Portland/ Bonneville Power Administration

Texas

19. Pantex Plant
20. San Antonio Regional – MITRE Corporation
21. Texas A&M University

Vermont

22. Woodstock Union Middle School

Virginia

23. Jefferson Lab

Note: The darker states show the home states of the winning regional teams.

Solving the Puzzle of Life



Albuquerque Academy – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sandia National Laboratories



Left to right: Ari Shaw-Faber, Ben Scuderi, Ryan Johnson, Austin Hudson-LaPore, Chris Peknik (Coach)

Team Coach: **Chris Peknik** teaches seventh grade at Albuquerque Academy, where most of his science curriculum focuses upon life on planet earth. When he is not teaching, Chris dabbles in art, enjoys a good read, explores the Colorado Plateau, and is generally astonished by insects, squids, and owls. He has been teaching for about twelve years. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Macalester College and his Master's degree in language, literacy, and sociocultural studies from the University of New Mexico. Chris grew up in the Middle East and the Midwest, but has lived in Albuquerque for the last decade. He and his wife, Lisa, have a two-year-old boy, Attacus, whom they named after a moth.

Team Members: **Jim Howe** is in the seventh grade. He enjoys building things, particularly with his Lego "Mindstorm" set, as well as playing tennis. He is currently on the Science Olympiad Team, and also has been on a Science Bowl Team and the tennis and track teams. His favorite subject is science because he enjoys learning about the world that we live in. He wants to pursue a career in robotic engineering. **Austin Hudson-LaPore** is a seventh grader who likes reading, playing racing videogames, and building models. He plays the cello and plays in a Celtic band. He likes math and science because there is so much to learn. He also likes learning Spanish. He does not know where he wants to go to college, but he knows that he wants to become a meteorologist, a chemist, or an engineer. He weighs less than 60 pounds, and is likely the smallest person attending the National Science Bowl. He is 12 years old and has a 10-year-old sister. He also really likes Hawaiian pizza. **Ryan Johnson** is a seventh grader who collects stamps and foreign paper money. He enjoys playing soccer and tennis. He sings in the Albuquerque Boy Choir and is going to Minnesota on a tour this summer. His favorite subject is math because it is very engaging and challenging. He plans to attend MIT and become a chemical engineer. **Ben Scuderi** is a seventh grader. His interests include architecture, computer science, and playing the viola. He participates in the Albuquerque Junior Symphony, an honor symphony for middle school students. His favorite subject is math, because math is the language of the universe. He wants to go to Caltech and study computer science or architecture/structural engineering. He likes to travel to Europe. Seventh grader **Ari Shaw-Faber** enjoys tennis and lighting for school plays. His favorite subject is math because there is always a clear-cut answer. He wishes to go to MIT for college to study genetic research. He built his own computer and has created a Web site, www.ask-ari.com.

Solving the Puzzle of Life

Basis Scottsdale – Scottsdale, Arizona

San Antonio Regional – MITRE Corporation



Left to right: Sheri Pierce (Coach), Brett Fitzgerald, Heather Roths, Andrew Shabilla, Jay Grollman, Patrick Kolb (Coach)

Team Coaches: **Patrick Kolb** teaches sixth through eighth grade biology and seventh grade earth science at Basis Scottsdale. He started coaching Science Bowl this year and also helped with Science Fair. Patrick enjoys hiking, computers, and sports. He attended Arizona State University to complete a degree in biology and continued on to get an M.Ed. and Master's in biology. An interesting fact is that he is a true Arizona WILDCAT fan in an Arizona State jersey. **Sheri Pierce** teaches sixth through eighth grade chemistry. This is her second year coaching the Science Bowl Team. Last year, 15 students tried out for the Science Bowl Team; this year, the club attracted 39 students. Besides science, Sheri enjoys playing softball and relaxing in Phoenix, Arizona. She has taught science for six years and will be moving into administration next year. She attended the University of Arizona for her undergraduate degree in biochemistry, and she earned her Master's in secondary education at National Louis University. An interesting fact about Sheri is that she thought about attending the School of the Mines, and if she had, she would have never met the outstanding students on her Science Bowl Team. Go Basis Scottsdale!

Team Members: **Brett Fitzgerald** is an eighth grader who will be attending Brophy College Preparatory for high school. He plays sports year-round; his favorite is football. In addition to Science Bowl, Brett participated in NJHS, Science Fair, Geography Bee, and Economics Challenge. Brett has already broken five bones. **Jay Grollman** is a sixth grader who likes to read, play the trumpet and piano, and create sculptures of his Jack Russell puppy. His favorite subjects are math, all the sciences, and Latin. Jay recently won first place in Latin drama and recitation at the Southern Arizona Language Fair, and first place in the Arizona State Olympic Competition as a brown belt in karate. He is focused on a career that blends medicine with engineering. **Heather Roths** is an eighth grade student. Next year, she will be attending Notre Dame Preparatory High School, taking honors math and science classes. Heather belongs to NJHS and to a competitive dive team, Clavadistas Del Sol. She has been diving competitively for two years. She also likes playing the piano. Heather enjoys being with her friends, family, and her dog, Poker. Heather hopes to attend Stanford and to receive a degree in interior design. **Andrew Shabilla** is a seventh grader. This is his second year competing on the Basis Scottsdale Science Bowl Team. Andrew enjoys science to the extent he is not afraid to talk about items or check the flammability of materials. **Jennifer Smith** competed in the local Science Bowl competition. She enjoys science and has supported her team by attending all of the club meetings. She hopes her team does well at Nationals.

Solving the Puzzle of Life



Bates Academy ~ Detroit, Michigan

NOBCCHE Midwest/Wayne State University



Not in order: Jermaine D. Evans (Coach), Donovan Jones, Phillip Lewis, Steven Graham, Dion Sims, Rachar Brown

Team Coach: **Jermaine D. Evans** is the eighth grade science teacher at Bates Academy. He has been teaching for seven years. He received his undergraduate degree in education from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, and his Master's in science education was obtained from Lawrence Technological University located in Southfield, Michigan. He is currently working on an education specialist degree in administration from Wayne State University. One interesting fact about him is that he is very interested in technology.

Team Members: **Rachar Brown** is in the eighth grade. He is interested in sports and his hobbies are drawing, basketball, and writing poems. He attends various basketball camps and leagues during the summer. His favorite subject in school is math. He plans to go to college and major in something about business or maybe something to do with computers. An interesting fact about him is that he is in good shape. **Steven Graham** is in the eighth grade. In the fall of this year, he will be attending Southfield Lathrup High School and will be graduating in 2009. His favorite subject is science. He really enjoys hanging out with friends, going to the movies, and researching on the Internet, but he also loves playing basketball and writing stories, rhymes, poems, etc. He plans to attend college at either Maryland, Virginia Tech, or UCLA. He plans to get a degree in business administration, and most likely, will be playing college basketball, then going on to the NBA. The most interesting fact about him is that he has great motivation and believes he can do anything that he chooses. **Phillip Lewis** is in the eighth grade. He loves sports and science. He is currently in the DAPCEP (Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program) and ITest programs. His favorite subjects are science and gym. He plans to attend Duke or Michigan State and be a doctor. He likes to play soccer. **Marcus Norman** is in the eighth grade and will be attending Renaissance High School in August of 2005. He will be graduating in the class of 2009. His favorite subject in school is mathematics. His hobbies are playing basketball, going out to malls, hanging with his friends, getting on the Internet, and talking on the phone. He plans to attend an out-of-state college but does not know which one yet. He plans to be an engineer. He is very outgoing and daring, has a great personality, and is just a cool guy to hang around. **Dion Sims** is in the eighth grade. He likes spending time studying, hanging with friends, surfing the Web, and playing sports. His favorite subject is math. When he goes to college, he plans to work on becoming a sports attorney. The interesting fact about him is that he is a student athlete.

Solving the Puzzle of Life



Bellport Middle School – Bellport, New York

Brookhaven National Laboratory



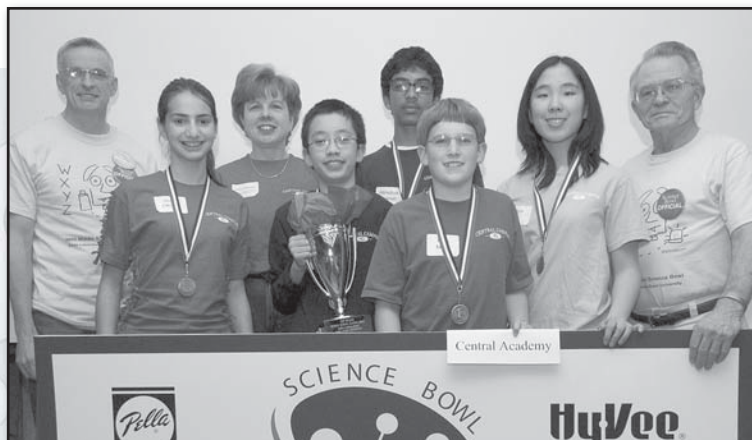
Left to right: Timothy Kropp, Katherine O'Connor, Danielle Gabriel (Coach), Katherine Betuel, Greg Borri, Meagan Mulcahy

Team Coach: **Danielle Gabriel** is the coach for the Bellport Middle School Science Bowl Team. She received her undergraduate degree in science from the University of Notre Dame. After graduating, Danielle did a post-graduate service program called the Alliance for Catholic Education, where she taught fifth through seventh grade science and religion in Charleston, South Carolina. While teaching in the program, she earned her M.Ed. from the University of Notre Dame. She has been teaching in the South Country School District for the past two years. Danielle's hobbies include running, playing soccer, and painting. She looks forward to many more years at Bellport Middle School and is very proud of the BMS Science Bowl Team for their accomplishments.

Team Members: **Katherine Betuel** is a seventh grade student. Her favorite school subjects are science and home & careers. She likes to play softball and has played the violin for the past four years. Katherine also enjoys cooking. She would like to someday attend Niagara University to become a teacher. Katherine was a member of the chamber orchestra, the Science Olympiad Club, the Science Bowl Team, and she catches for the school softball team. **Greg Borri** is a seventh grader whose favorite subject is physical education. Greg likes to play football and loves playing video games with friends. He would like to one day attend college, but does not know which one as of yet. When he gets older, he would like to have a job that he enjoys rather than one that pays well. Greg is a member of the Bellport football team, the Science Olympiad Club, the Science Bowl Team, and orchestra. Eighth grader **Meagan Mulcahy's** favorite school subjects include Spanish, biology, and English. She enjoys playing softball, practicing her flute, watching movies, reading books, and hanging out with friends. She is a member of a local softball team, the Science Bowl Team, the Science Olympiad Club, and has participated in many school plays. In the future, Meagan definitely plans to go to college but is undecided as to which one. She would like to one day become a kindergarten teacher. Seventh grader **Katherine O'Connor** is a seventh grader. Her favorite subjects at school are math and science. She is a member of the Math Team, the Science Olympiad Club, the Science Bowl Team, the Frequent Readers Club, and the Math-Science-Technology Club. She is also the first-chair flute player in the school band. Katherine enjoys sailing, hiking, and juggling. She hopes to someday attend an Ivy League college and ultimately become a scientist or mathematician. Katherine was chosen to represent her school at the annual K-6 Regional Science Fair at Brookhaven National Laboratory five times, receiving two Honorable Mention medals and one First Place award.

Central Academy – Des Moines, Iowa

Ames Laboratory



Left to right: Steve Karsjen (Science Bowl Coordinator), Anna Okulist, Joyce Johnson (Coach), Troy Shu, Abhishek Vemuri, Kyle Moss, Alice Xu, Tom Barton (Director, Ames Laboratory)

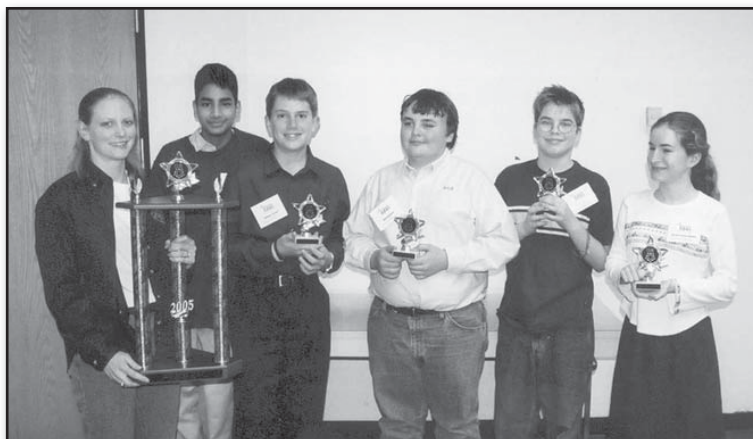
Team Coaches: **Joyce Johnson** teaches eighth grade science and seventh and eighth grade English at Central Academy and has been teaching for 21 years. She graduated with a B.A. in elementary education from Purdue University. She received her M.S. in science education from the University of Iowa. She enjoys traveling with her family: husband Jon, son Jeffrey, and daughter Jennifer. Joyce enjoys playing bridge, baking, and reading. **Kevin Moss**, team member Kyle Moss's father, has coached little league and soccer for nine years but has never coached an academic team. He enjoys competition and seeing young people learn and improve. He is a construction worker, so he likes seeing theory converted to practical application — using science. His hobbies include running, canoeing, cross-country skiing, hunting with his bird dog, and woodworking.

Team Members: **Kyle Moss** is an eighth grader at Central Academy and his home school is North Polk. His hobbies include chess, hunting, canoeing, and soccer. He also plays the piano. He is interested in math and science and has gone to competitions around the state. In the future, he plans to attend college and major in an engineering field. **Anna Okulist** is an eighth grade student at Stilwell Junior High School and Central Academy. She enjoys English and playing tennis. She participates in the school band and track, and is on the cross country team. She is also involved in piano and dance. Her college goals include attending Harvard or Yale. She hopes to become an aerodynamics engineer and is interested in designing car exteriors. **Troy Shu** is an eighth grader at Johnston Middle School and Central Academy. His interests are programming, video games, math, piano, and flying RC airplanes. His family has a membership to a fitness center and he swims and plays badminton there three times a week. His favorite subject in school is math, although science is a close second. He wants to go to MIT or Caltech and become either an aerospace engineer or a computer programmer. **Abhishek Vemuri** is an eighth grader attending Central Academy and Indian Hills Junior High School. Math is his favorite subject, followed closely by science. He has participated in MathCounts and other math-based competitions. In addition to Science Bowl, he participates in Mock Trial, debate, music (band and piano), and track/cross country. He wishes to attend MIT, Harvard, or Caltech and will explore mathematical or scientific research, or maybe train to be a physician. Eighth grader **Alice Xu** attends Central Academy and Stilwell Junior High School. Throughout her educational career, she has enjoyed the science classes the most. Violin, debate, Mock Trial, tennis, and volunteering are some activities she is strongly involved in. She also loves shopping, hanging out with friends, practicing violin, and playing an AWESOME game of tennis. She is striving to attend Harvard University to become a doctor.

Solving the Puzzle of Life

College Station Middle School – College Station, Texas

Texas A & M University



Left to right: Torri Whitaker (Coach), Omar Masud, Nathan Cooner, Will Rooney, Zach Schertz, Rachel Flores-Meath

Team Coach: **Torri Whitaker** is a native Texan and current resident of College Station, Texas. She holds a Bachelor's degree in animal science and a Master's degree in agricultural education; both from Texas A&M University. She has been teaching for three years. Her first year, she taught sixth grade math and science at Joshua Intermediate School in Joshua, Texas. The last two years have been at College Station Middle School, teaching seventh grade science. Before beginning her teaching career, she worked at an equine therapeutic riding facility. She is an animal-lover who currently has two dogs, two cats, two horses, two bearded dragons, and several aquariums. In her spare time, she gives horseback riding lessons and trains horses.

Team Members: **Nathan Cooner** is an eighth grader who enjoys reading, fishing, golf, and south Texas USTA competitive tennis. Nathan has participated in Junior Science Bowl for the last three years, MathCounts, UIL, Texas State Geography Bee, Chess Club, and National Junior Honor Society. His favorite subjects are science and math. He is interested in attending Texas A&M University, University of Tennessee, or an Ivy League school. **Rachel Flores-Meath** is in the eighth grade. Her interests and hobbies include reading, chess, violin, computers, science, math, knitting, writing, and soccer. She is involved in Varsity Orchestra, MathCounts, UIL, Chess Club, National Junior Honor Society, and Girl Scouts. Her favorite subjects are science, algebra, and Spanish. She plans to attend Texas A&M University and double major in computer science and computer engineering. She would then like to work as a computer programmer. Rachel plays the violin, attended the state Math Counts competition, and earned the Girl Scouts Bronze award. **Omar Masud** is an eighth grader whose hobbies include reading, playing chess, and solving Rubik's cube. He is involved in MathCounts, UIL, Chess Club, and National Junior Honor Society. His favorite subject is algebra. He plans to attend MIT and obtain a Ph.D. in engineering. Some interesting facts about him are that he can solve a Rubik's cube in under a minute, plays the cello, and likes spinach. Eighth grader **Will Rooney** was born in Minnesota and is 13 years old. His interests include computer building, reading, chess, science, interesting math problems, magic cards, and RPGs. His hobbies are building things, MathCounts, Science Bowl, and 4-H. At school, he enjoys algebra and science. He plans to obtain a degree in engineering science or pre-med from a distinguished university (such as Texas A&M – WHOOP! or MIT). He enjoys playing calculator games on his TI83.

East Middle School – Great Falls, Montana

Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake



Left to right: Tony Dulaney, Megan McDunn, Whitney Milos, Mason Keil, Rory Kain

Team Coaches: **Beth Thomas** has been teaching middle school science for 12 years. Next year, she will be teaching environmental science in the district to students from grades one through twelve. She coaches cross country and the Science Olympiad Team. Her interests include cooking, reading, spending time in the outdoors/mountains, running, and spending time with her husband and three children, aged 18, 15, and 8. Her Bachelor's degree is from the University of Great Falls and her Master's degree in education is from Northern Montana University. Interesting facts about her are she has run a full (26.2 mile) marathon and she is using the Spitzer Space Telescope (using infrared) to research brown dwarfs and iron stars. **Kerry Zanto** has been teaching middle school math for six years. She will be teaching ninth graders at C.M. Russell High School next year. She coaches cross country and the Science Olympiad Team. Her interests include playing basketball, camping, and making jewelry. She graduated from Montana State University Northern with a Bachelor's degree in math and a minor in PE/health. She is currently working on her Master's degree in technology in the classroom. An interesting fact about her is that she purchased a car using 4-H money that she earned in elementary and high school.

Team Members: **Rory Kain** is a seventh grader. In his spare time, he enjoys reading and playing chess. He is a member of the Chess Club and Science Olympiad Team. His favorite subjects are science and math. He plans to attend either MIT or Stanford and major in physics, math, chemistry, or engineering. An interesting fact about him is that he is the only person in his family to have red hair in five generations. **Mason Keil** is a seventh grader whose hobbies include reading, drawing, and jumping on his trampoline. His favorite subject is science. He plans on attending Harvard and becoming a doctor. Interesting facts about him are that he never gets sick and he performs several illusion/magic tricks. **Megan McDunn** is a seventh grader who plays volleyball, basketball, soccer, and track. Math is her favorite subject. She is involved in student government, Montana Behavioral Institute, and Science Olympiad. She hopes to attend the University of Montana or Princeton and study engineering. An interesting fact about her is that she enjoys watching stock car races. **Whitney Milos** is in the seventh grade. She enjoys playing sports, such as volleyball and basketball. Her hobbies are playing the piano, shopping, and reading. She is involved in Science Olympiad. Her favorite subjects are math and English. She hopes to attend Montana State University or Princeton to become a dosimetrist in radiation oncology or an interior designer. Her family owns a large cattle ranch and, in her spare time, she helps feed, brand, and round em' up!

Solving the Puzzle of Life



Left to right: Angela Mollise (Moderator), Hunter Finklea, Rhett Butler, Ian Hollifield, Evan Rowe, Ryan Preskitt, Pat Tracy (Coach), Kristal Webb (ASMS Volunteer)

Team Coach: **Pat Tracy** is the eighth grade science teacher at Eclectic Middle School. She graduated from the University of Alabama with a B.S. degree in secondary education, majoring in all the sciences. She received an endorsement in all areas for grades one through six from Troy University Montgomery. She has done postgraduate work at Troy University Montgomery, Auburn University Montgomery, and Alabama State University. Mrs. Tracy has taught for 21 years in both public and private schools. She has taught in all areas of science and high school math, and has served as a library-media specialist. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma International Education Sorority. She is married and the mother of three grown sons. She enjoys adventure, animals, traveling, and her grandson.

Team Members: **Rhett Butler** is an eighth grader whose hobbies are hunting and fishing. He is a member of the EMS Science Club and also the Junior Beta Club. His favorite subjects are world history and science. He plans to go to Auburn University and major in engineering. He is also the tallest member of the team, standing 6'1". **Hunter Finklea** is in the eighth grade. He enjoys playing sports and hanging out with friends. He wants to become a biomedical engineer and graduate from UAB after playing four years of football. Right now he is involved in many clubs and is president of the EMS Junior Beta Club. **Ian Hollifield** is an eighth grade student who enjoys recreational writing as well as structural writing for his English class. He plans to attend Auburn University and attempt a career as a novelist. He enjoys all of his subjects, except algebra, which he finds boring, although he does well in it. Eighth grader **Ryan Preskitt** was born on December 29, 1990. He enjoys playing video games and is a big movie fan. Ryan belongs to the Science Club and the Junior Beta Club. His favorite subjects are science and history. He plans on attending a state college and then possibly moving to an advanced university. He has always lived on the border of Wetumpka and enjoys living in such a rural area without the confusion of the city. **Evan Rowe** is an eighth grader whose hobbies include football and fishing. He is in the Science and Junior Beta Clubs. His favorite subject is science. He plans to go to the University of Alabama and become a technological engineer.

Honey Creek Middle School – Terre Haute, Indiana

Indiana State University



Left to right, front row: Joseph Botros, John Ryan; Middle row: Pardha Ponugoti, Raj Bhuptani, Eric Joyal; Back row: Carol Anne Tolin (Coach), Robert Fischer (Coach)

Team Coaches: **Robert Fischer** has been teaching for 36 years in Terre Haute. He has a Master's degree with an endorsement in gifted and talented. For the past 25 years, he has been teaching mathematics in a gifted and talented program. He has also coached MathCounts for the past 24 years and has been the coach of the Indiana Team at the MathCounts National Competition. He has also coached tennis for the past 34 years. **Carol Tolin** received her Master's degree and endorsement in gifted and talented education from Indiana State University. She has been teaching middle school for 34 years and is presently teaching sixth, seventh, and eighth grade science in a gifted and talented program. She enjoys gardening, golf, tennis, and training for the mini-marathon.

Team Members: **Raj Bhuptani** is an eighth grader who enjoys bicycling, art, and tennis. In school, he excels in math and science. In the future, he plans to pursue a career in either medicine or computer science. **Joseph Botros** is a sixth grader. He enjoys reading and likes to learn. He is a member of the Boy Scouts of America and is one rank away from becoming an Eagle Scout. His favorite subjects are math and science, with English a close second. He is enrolled in the Kumon advanced math program and plans to take the SAT in August. **Eric Joyal** is an eighth grader whose favorite subjects include science, math, and music. He participated in MathCounts competition and ran for the track team. In his free time, he enjoys playing guitar, tenor sax, and AAU baseball for the Terre Haute Inferno. He hopes to pursue a career in biology or computers. **Pardha Ponugoti** is an eighth grader who plays tennis and participated in the MathCounts competition, qualifying for nationals. Pardha's favorite subjects in school are science and math. **John Ryan** is currently a seventh grader. His favorite subjects include math, science, and band. He enjoys playing baseball and soccer. He hopes to attend Stanford University where he would major in law. He hopes that his hard work will pay off for him someday.

Solving the Puzzle of Life

Joyce Kilmer Middle School – Trenton, New Jersey

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory



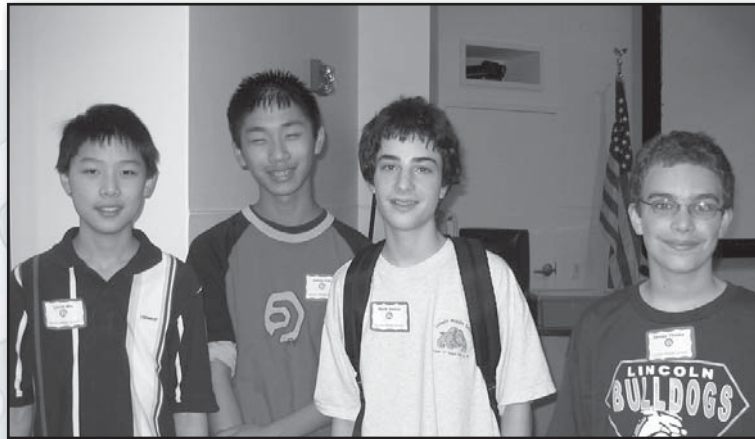
Left to right: Quashon Nolan, Jessica Bradley, Kiara Mudd, Antoinette Mack, Valerie Butler (Principal), Carla Millner (Coach)

Team Coaches: **Carla Millner** teaches seventh and eighth grade science at Joyce Kilmer Elementary School and is advisor to the Student Council. Carla's hobby is reading. She enjoys watching CSI and the many Discovery channels on TV, spends a lot of time working in the garden, and enjoys outdoor activities. This is her thirteenth year teaching. Carla received a Bachelor's in education from The College of New Jersey and is currently working on a Master's degree in curriculum and instruction at Central Michigan University, while taking science courses independently at Camden County College. She has always loved science and spends many hours working on things related to science. **Bruce Williams** teaches eighth grade math and sixth grade science. He has been teaching for 4.5 years, and has a B.S. in engineering from Florida A&M University and an M.B.A. from the University of Maryland. He enjoys all outdoor sports and has a special interest in aviation. He spent six years in the military, where he jumped out of a perfectly good airplane 30 times.

Team Members: **Jessica Bradley** is an eighth grader. Her interests are soccer, basketball, reading, and video games. She is on the soccer team. Jessica is in Project S.M.I.L.E. at Mercer County Community College. Her favorite subjects are math and science. She wants to go to UCLA or HPU and become a marine biologist. **Antoinette Mack** is an eighth grader whose interests are soccer and track. The school clubs she participates in are cheerleading and track and field. Her favorite subject in school is math. She wants to go to Princeton University and become a scientist. She also likes to travel. **Kiara Mudd** is an eighth grader whose hobbies are track and soccer. The school club she participates in is track and field. Her favorite subject is science. She would like to attend college but is not sure which one she would like to go to. **Quashon Nolan** is an eighth grade student. His interests are basketball, baseball, football, and swimming. The school club he participates in is baseball. His favorite subjects in school are math and science. The colleges he would like to attend are either Duke University or Georgetown University and he would like to be a heart surgeon someday.

Lincoln Middle School – Gainesville, Florida

Florida Solar Energy Center



Left to right: Louie Wu, Kevin Fan, Mark Simon, James Thieke

Team Coaches: **Roberta Harbrucker** received a B.S. in biology education from Southwest Missouri State University. She is currently completing a Master's in microbiology from the University of Florida. She has taught eighth grade science the last two years at Lincoln Middle School. She has sponsored groups such as SECME, Environmental Club, Cheerleaders, and the tenth grade class. For the last 20 years, she has been the Science Fair Coordinator at her school. She has a very simple goal for her students — to help them to appreciate the value of what they learn and to train them to be better learners. To assist in taking students on educational trips, she has also acquired the skill of bus driving to reduce expenses. **Adrienne Thieke** has brought a tremendous amount of energy to the sixth grade science class of Lincoln Middle School Lyceum Program. She chose to leave behind a quality assurance position with a firm to teach. Her area of specialty is in materials science. As a relatively new teacher, she has managed to receive grant funding from Hewlett Packard. This grant brought computers and related technology into the classrooms of both science and math teachers to collaborate on a weather project.

Team Members: **Kevin Fan** is an eighth grade student who excels in math. He is an active participant of the math honor society, Mu Alpha Theta, and attends the many competitions of the math organization, Math Counts. He has become a formidable competitor in chess through years of playing. Kevin enjoys music and plays the clarinet in the symphonic band. He is also active in athletics, participating in local soccer teams. He wishes to pursue a field in engineering. **Mark Simon** is an eighth grader. In addition to his five Lincoln classes, he takes AP Statistics and Competition Algebra II at Buchholz High School. Math and science are Mark's strong points, but he does well in all of his classes. After school, Mark enjoys fencing and working/playing on his computer. **James Thieke** is a seventh grade student in the Lyceum Program. He is a 3rd degree brown belt in karate. He plays the piano and he joined the school's band in sixth grade, currently playing the French horn in both the full orchestra and the symphonic band. His favorite subjects include math, science, and world history. He loves physics and hopes to become a physicist when he graduates college. James spends most of his spare time reading, especially about most fields of science and math, or playing video games. **Louie Wu** is in the eighth grade. His interests include strategy games, math, and science. He plays the violin and tennis. Louie has participated in Mu Alpha Theta competitions in Florida. He did particularly well both this year (in the Algebra II division) and last year in Algebra I. He is uncertain of what he will do for college or for his career afterwards.

Solving the Puzzle of Life

Mission Middle School – Bellevue, Nebraska

Natural Resources Conservation Service



Left to right: Melody Kjerstad (Coach), Brent Myers (Coach), Daniel Holtmeyer, Brianna Kallman, Mary Pham, Susan Hester (Coach), Steven Sims

Team Coaches: **Susan Hester** is the 7-12 Gifted Facilitator for Bellevue Public Schools in Nebraska. A graduate of Ohio State University and the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Mrs. Hester has taught in Bellevue for 33 years. She enjoys science, reading, walking, and her four grandchildren. **Brent Myers** is an American History teacher and the Gifted Facilitator for Mission Middle School in Bellevue. A graduate of Creighton University, he has taught for 10 years. He coaches four sports as well as the academic teams. He enjoys reading, teaching Sunday school, camping, but especially spending time with his beautiful wife and three boys.

Team Members: **Daniel Holtmeyer** is an eighth grader who likes science and enjoys reading and playing video games. He is in National Junior Honor Society and Mission's Multicultural Club. His favorite subjects are science and English. Daniel plans on being a teacher but is unsure where he would like to go to college. He likes basketball, soccer, trombone, Quiz Bowl, and science fiction. Daniel won the "I am Science Smart" award at the Nebraska regional. **Brianna Kallman** is in the eighth grade. She enjoys basketball, softball, volleyball, and bowling. She loves to read, draw, and write poems. She is in student council, National Junior Honor Society, and swing choir. Brianna's favorite subjects are algebra and science. She plans to get a math degree in college and hopes to become a math professor, crime investigator, or work in the special victims unit. Brianna plays the French horn and enjoys making Web sites. She has made her own 8,000-word dictionary. She is a fan of the root beer, but not the Huskers. **Mary Pham** is an eighth grader who enjoys ice-skating, swimming, singing, and playing piano. Mary participates in Math Club and the swim team and made state choir. She has played the piano since she was four years old. She enjoys math and science of all kinds. Mary plans to go to law school and hopes to become a prosecuting attorney. **Steven Sims** is an eighth grader who spends most of his time practicing karate and ju-jitsu and working out. He is a member of Mission's Math Club, Science Olympiad Team, and Science Bowl, and he recently won second place at the regional Future Cities Competition. His favorite subject is math, which he is currently taking at the high school level. Steven plans to go to UC Berkley and become a doctor.

Post Falls Middle School – Post Falls, Idaho

Northwest Regional – Post Falls, Idaho



Left to right: Katie Mehr, Arthur Francis, Meaghan Slaney, Eric Lundholm

Team Coach: **Brian O'Rourke** teaches science and social studies to seventh graders at Post Falls Middle School in Post Falls, Idaho. This is his first Science Bowl Team and he is honored to be their coach. Brian enjoys many of the outdoor activities that Northern Idaho offers, including hiking and motorcycle riding. When time is available, he reads and collects old books. He is the proud father of two children, Connor and Megan, and has a lovely wife, Karen.

Team Members: **Arthur Francis**, an eighth grader, enjoys producing videos as well as watching them. This last year, he participated in swimming, track, forestry, and the Northwest Regional Science Bowl. He enjoys math, social studies, and geography and plans on going to the University of Idaho or Boise State University to become a movie/TV show producer. **Ashley Kuber** is in the seventh grade. Her interests are softball, basketball, volleyball, football, soccer, shopping, and hanging out with her friends. Her favorite subjects in school are math, social studies, and science. Ashley plans to go to Ohio University to become a pediatrician, get away from her parents, or whatever she changes her mind to. The interesting facts about Ashley are that her GPA is 3.2, she has three brothers, and she lives with her dad. **Eric Lundholm** is an eighth grader who has participated in a few competitions this year, including MathCounts, Idaho State Forestry, and the Northwest Regional Science Bowl. His favorite subjects are math, science, and English. He plans on becoming a chemical or computer engineer. **Katie Mehr** is in the seventh grade. She loves to play volleyball and basketball. She also likes to swim. Katie has loved being involved in the Science Bowl. Her favorite subjects in school are science and math and she is good at both of them. Her future plans for college are to go to the University of Washington. She wants to be a science teacher. Katie has a 4.0 GPA. She has lots of friends and all her teachers like her. **Meaghan Slaney** is in the seventh grade. Her hobbies include dancing and hanging out with friends. Her favorite subjects in school are science and math. She takes an art class and is enjoying every moment of it. She would like to go to North Idaho College for two years and then go to the University of Idaho and either study to be a dance teacher, study cells, or be a brain researcher. Meaghan has won several awards for dancing. She loves to go on family vacations. Every day, she thanks her family for always being there for her with every decision she makes. She is always concerned with friends, but wants her family to know she would not be going to Colorado if it was not for them.

Solving the Puzzle of Life

Prodell Middle School – Shoreham, New York

Brookhaven National Laboratory



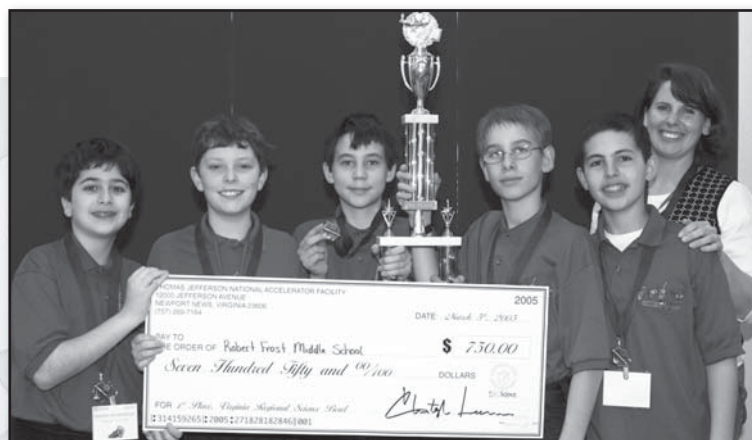
Left to right: Pelle Hall, Dana Purdy, Lori Racaniello (Coach), Brooke Johnson, Adam Lamson

Team Coach: **Lori Racaniello** is currently teaching seventh grade life science classes and an accelerated life/physical science class. She is coach of the Science Bowl teams and the Science Olympiads teams. She earned a B.S. in biology/pre-med, with a minor in chemistry from SUNY College at Oneonta and an M.S. in cellular and molecular biology from Florida Institute of Technology. She has taught science for four years at public and private schools, and microbiology at Long Island University and Suffolk County Community College on Long Island for three years. She is a member of Sigma Xi, STANYS, and NYSMTA. She has had a varied background working in research prior to teaching. She has volunteered as a Girl Scout leader for the past eight years and a 4-H leader for three years, and has developed numerous children's gardens at local schools with both clubs. She enjoys boating, fishing, gardening, golf, swimming, and hiking.

Team Members: **Pelle Hall** is a seventh grader who has excelled at math since third grade. Pelle and his partner, Greg, won first place in their Mathletes division, a competitive math club. He has also been going to the Cold Spring Harbor DNA summer camps for the past two years. He is currently in advanced math and advanced science. His hobbies are playing viola since kindergarten, the French horn since fourth grade, tennis since fifth grade, and soccer since pre-school. **Julie Hudecek** is an eighth grader who plays lacrosse and basketball, and runs cross country. Julie plays the violin and the trumpet. Her favorite subjects in school are math, science, and English. Julie wants to be a psychologist when she grows up. **Brooke Johnson** is an eighth grader. Her favorite subjects in school are math and science. Brooke's hobbies and interests include playing basketball and running track and cross country. She also enjoys windsurfing and going to the beach. **Adam Lamson**, the team captain, is an eighth grader. He grew up and went to school in Southampton, New York, and in the seventh grade, he moved to Shoreham. In the summer, Adam enjoys any activities near water, including sailing and surfing, and in the winter, he snow skis up in Vermont and enjoys other snow activities. His favorite school subjects are math and science. He would like to attend an Ivy League university and major in theoretical physics. Eighth grader **Dana Purdy** is a year-round competitive swimmer and runner. She swims for a club and runs cross country and track for her school. Dana's favorite subjects in school are math and science. Dana also plays the clarinet and enjoys getting together with her friends.

Robert Frost Middle School – Rockville, Maryland

Jefferson Lab



Left to right: Sherwin Heydarbeygi, Jacob Hurwitz, Christian Haudenschild, Krzysztof Franaszek, Zohair Asmail, Clara Asmail (Coach)

Team Coach: **Clara Asmail** has been a physicist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology for 16 years. She conducted research on optical scattering distribution of materials; authoring more than 35 papers. One of her inventions was exclusively licensed to a U.S. manufacturer. The commercialization of her research interested her in transitioning to the technology transfer of NIST inventions and collaborations. She negotiated over a hundred CRADAs and licenses and she is now manager of the SBIR Program. Clara's dream as a little girl was to be happy, with a fabulous husband and two wonderful children — her dream came true!

Team Members: Seventh grader **Zohair Asmail** is in all honors classes, including algebra. He is a member of his future high school's Robotics Club. He has been playing the violin for five years, was in PVYO, and is in his school's advanced orchestra. Zohair participates in his school's SGA and is a representative to special guests. He enjoys basketball and soccer. Last year he was a soccer referee for third and fourth graders. **Krzysztof Franaszek** is a seventh grader whose favorite subjects include science and mathematics. He participates in gifted and talented classes for every academic subject. He is a member of the Math Team, SGA, and band, in which he plays the clarinet. In addition, he plays the saxophone, and on Saturdays, he attends a school sponsored by the Ministry of Education of Poland to study the Polish language, history, and geography. He also attends the local high school Robotics Club and Korean martial arts. He does not yet have any career goals for the future. **Christian Haudenschild** is a seventh grader who enjoys reading and frequent outings to the Barnes and Noble store near his house. In his spare time, he practices Tae Kwon Do, Wing Tzun, and some Hapkido. He is oriented toward science and mathematics, and is a member of the Wootton Robotics Club. Christian currently resides in North Potomac, Maryland. Seventh grader **Sherwin Heydarbeygi** was born in Houston, Texas, and moved to Maryland at the age of six. While in elementary school, Sherwin was elected as the captain of the school patrols. On graduation day, he was awarded a citizenship award, which is only awarded to one graduating boy and one graduating girl. He participates in many extracurricular activities, such as soccer, Tae Kwon Do, and photography. Seventh grader **Jacob Hurwitz** hopes to be a mathematician one day. His favorite subjects are geometry and science, and he is a member of the Jazz Band and the Math Team. He won the Geographic Bee for his school this year. He participates in competitions such as Reflections, Final Frontiers, and the Science Fair, and he plays the piano and trumpet. Jacob has even memorized more than 100 digits of pi.

Solving the Puzzle of Life



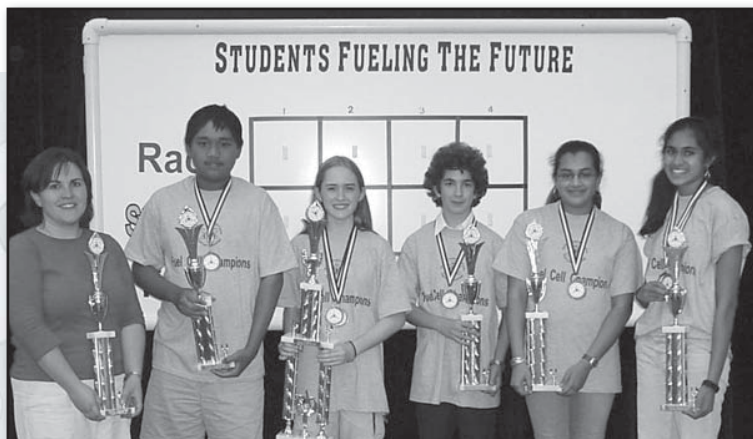
Left to right, Front row: Sandra Painter (Coach), Calder Coalson, AJ Surasky; Back row: Jeffrey Narkis, Kevin Binder

Team Coach: **Sandra Painter** has taught math and humanities at Roosevelt Middle School for the last nine years. This is her third year coaching the Science Bowl Team. She also coaches the Math Olympiad Team, Robotics Teams, and Scholastic Bowl Teams at Roosevelt. In her spare time, she enjoys the arts, reading, and needlecrafts. But most of all, she enjoys watching her daughter perform in plays.

Team Members: **Kevin Binder** is an eighth grade student. Next year, he will attend Oak Park/River Forest High School as a freshman. He enjoys acting and has performed in plays through his school. He also enjoys soccer, football, and basketball. He plays soccer for the local traveling team, the Oak Park Strikers. **Calder Coalson** is a seventh grader who enjoys basketball, math, and science. This last year, he participated in FLL Robotics and was a member of the Math Olympiad Team and the Scholastic Bowl Team. He hopes to pursue math and science in college. **Jeffrey Narkis** is an eighth grader who enjoys playing soccer, tennis, and basketball and playing on the computer. He is in band and chorus, and accompanies the chorus on the piano. He, along with his Robotics Team, took second at the regional competition and qualified for the state competition. His favorite subjects in school are math, science, and humanities. **AJ Surasky** is an eighth grader who enjoys biking, video games, and drawing designs of cars. He participated in the First Lego League Robotics Competition and his team qualified for the State Competition. AJ's favorite subjects are math and science. He also plays soccer and the piano. He would like to design cars when he grows up.

Smith Middle School – Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Students Fueling the Future



Left to right: Melinda Fitzgerald (Coach), Jason Elangbam, Rosie Shay, Alex Marcheschi, Preetha Nandi, Sarika Mendu

Team Coach: **Melinda Fitzgerald** is an eighth grade science teacher at Smith Middle School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. A graduate from the University of North Carolina's Middle Grades Program, she is nationally board certified and has been teaching science in grades six through eight for the past nine years. This is her second year bringing a team to the National Middle School Science Bowl. Melinda also collaborates with local community organizations, such as Duke Marine Biology Lab and the Haw River Assembly, to provide hands-on, real-world science opportunities to her students. In her limited spare time, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, and woodworking.

Team Members: **Jason Elangbam** is an eighth grader. He will be going to East Chapel Hill High School next year. He likes to play video games a lot and his hobby is using his computer. He likes to play tennis and was on the Smith tennis team. His favorite classes include math, science, and band. He is currently undecided for careers and college. Some interesting things about him are that he gets into a lot of bad luck and has encountered many games messing up. **Alex Marcheschi** is an eighth grader who participates in Science Bowl and also made a successful Fuel Cell car, which was entered in the North Carolina State Competition. He absolutely loves video games, roller coasters, and running for his school's track team. Alex plans to go to a four-year university after high school, but is not sure which university he plans to attend. His favorite classes are math and science because he learns something almost every day and is never bored. Alex and his parents believe he has a photographic memory. **Sarika Mendu**, an eighth grader, not only participates in Science Bowl and Fuel Cell Car Competition, but is also a competitor at the 2005 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. She enjoys playing viola in her school orchestra, tennis, basketball, and singing Carnatic music. She has been a Girl Scout for several years and is currently working towards her Silver Award. Sarika was a 2003 Grand Award winner for the Duke University Talent Identification Program and is fascinated by cultures around the world. **Preetha Nandi**, an eighth grader, loves math and science. She enjoys Indian classical dancing and playing the piano. She likes doing art, cooking, leading and organizing activities, and spending time with friends. She wants to attend an Ivy League school and pursue a biomedical career. **Rosie Shay**, an eighth grader, enjoys math and science, and is also interested in Latin; she was a gold medal winner in the 2005 National Latin Exam. She has played violin for most of her life and has been a member of the Piedmont Youth Orchestra for six years. One of her hobbies is geocaching — using the Global Positioning System to find buried "treasure." She loves to read and write, and would like to pursue a career in writing or in architecture.

Solving the Puzzle of Life

St. Andrew's Episcopal School – Amarillo, Texas

Pantex Plant



Left to right: Marcella Herrington (Coach), Drew Moore, Josh Penniman, Jessica Williams, George Maliha, Will Davies, Mike Mallory (General Manager and President, BWXT Pantex)

Team Coach: **Marcella Herrington** retired last year from teaching in public schools after 34 years. This year, she is teaching sixth, seventh, and eighth grade science at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Amarillo. She loves teaching! She has been married for 40 years to the same old guy that shares her interest in the outdoors — last summer they hiked the Chilkoot Trail from Dyea, Alaska to Bennett, British Columbia. She loves to travel and work it around mountain climbing or hiking. Marcella has two grown sons and two grandchildren. Besides teaching, she enjoys reading and gardening.

Team Members: **Will Davies**, an eighth grader, was born in Houston, Texas, and currently lives in Amarillo. He likes duck hunting, skiing, basketball, football, and baseball. He will attend Episcopal High School in Virginia next fall. Will was fourth in the Texas State Geography Bee in April. He likes to watch the Texans, Rockets, and Astros win. Eighth grader **George Maliha** is the team captain. His interests include playing the piano and collecting coins. He has partaken in these hobbies for about six years now. These pastimes have opened up a door of opportunities that allow him to learn new ideas and to compete against his peers. This is his first year to compete in most middle school math and science competitions, such as the MathCounts state competition, in which he was captain of the team. He must say that he has enjoyed all of these opportunities. **Drew Moore** is an eighth grader whose hobbies include basketball, piano, and church youth group activities. Drew has recently been recognized with first place teams in the Regional MathCounts, Science Bowl, and Fuel Cell Car Competitions. He aspires to pursue a career in math/science and engineering. **Jessica Williams** is an eighth grade student. Her interests include reading and writing. One of her main goals is to publish a book. She enjoys math and science as well, and was a member of the state MathCounts Team. She also captained the Robotics Team that will be going to state next fall. Other activities include being a Student Council officer and a member of the girl's basketball team.

The Manning School – Golden, Colorado

National Renewable Energy Laboratory



Left to right: John Kersten (Manager, DOE Golden Field Office), Susan Coveyduck (Coach), Anna Warden, Jeremy Erbsen, Michael Auslen, Sam Lucero, Hannah York, Dr. Dan Arvisu (Director, NREL)

Team Coaches: **Susan Coveyduck** is in her tenth year teaching eighth grade physical science. Ms. Coveyduck earned an M.A. in math and science education at the University of Colorado. She speaks and can teach French, adores travel, is an accomplished equestrian, has been in several plays, and is currently singing with a local jazz ensemble. She loves to sponsor clubs, teach craft classes, and organize local trips to NREL and NCAR. She can often be found designing new experiments and mixing things up after school with her students in their brand new chemistry lab. **Paul Lukosi** has a B.S. degree from the Washington State University and a Master's in instructional technology from the University of Colorado at Denver. He has taught one year at a high school and eight years at middle school, teaching life science and physical science. He has coached high school JV soccer and has been a Varsity assistant coach for soccer and cross country. At the middle school level, "Mr. L" has coached softball, flag football, and basketball. This school year, "Mr. L" has had the opportunity to work with a dedicated group of young people on The Manning School Science Bowl Teams.

Team Members: **Michael Auslen** is a seventh grader who enjoys acting, biking, camping, hiking, and writing. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 1876 in Arvada and is a Star Scout. This summer, he will go to the 2005 National Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. There, he will participate in a program called Hometown News, where he can send home news articles to local papers and have them published. When he grows up, he hopes to be a newspaper journalist. He is an actor at the Festival Playhouse in Arvada where he has played many parts in six plays, including Oz in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Eighth grader **Jeremy Erbsen's** favorite subjects in school are gym and science. When he is not in school, he does triathlons and races road bikes with RMCEF. Jeremy also plays trumpet in Colorado Honor Band. Next year, he will attend the IB program at Lakewood High. Jeremy hopes to become a chemical engineer and attend the Colorado School of Mines. **Sam Lucero** is a seventh grader who participates in Boy Scouts of America and is the leader of his church youth group. He enjoys playing pool, staying up late, dirt bike riding, and fishing. He loves to play basketball and has an unusual ability to speak backwards. After high school, he hopes to attend Brigham Young University, but is still unsure what major he will pursue. Eighth grader **Anna Warden**, team captain, was born in Chicago, and has lived in London, England, and in Baarn, Holland. She loves to swim and play basketball and pool. Her favorite subjects are math, science, and English. She has had two poems and one short story published. Anna also plays the piano and her favorite piano piece is Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata." Anna hopes to be a pediatrician or a pediatric surgeon.

Solving the Puzzle of Life

The Preuss School UCSD – La Jolla, California

NOBCCHE – San Diego Regional



Left to right: Jeff Major (Coach), Latifah Smith, Susan Hagos, Gloria Chukwueke, Obsa Ali

Team Coaches: **Jennifer Krummel** is a science teacher at The Preuss School UCSD. She was a high school biology and chemistry teacher for three years in Minnesota, and has taught middle school science for three years at Preuss. She is the Science Fair coach and organizer. She attended the University of Wisconsin in Whitewater. She loves dolphins! **Jeff Major** received his B.A. in applied physics at San Diego State University in 1997. He has taught earth science, computer science, robotics, and building & design at The Preuss School UCSD. Currently, he is teaching eighth grade physical science and has been very active this past year in the implementation and development of the C.I.P.S. curriculum. As a member of the San Diego Botball Steering Committee, he has been involved with the San Diego Science Alliance in the fostering educational robotics programs all throughout San Diego. He has also been creating video case study science lessons for science education teacher programs across the nation.

Team Members: **Obsa Ali** is a seventh grader. He would like to be a lawyer and play basketball. His favorite subjects are math and science. He plans to go to UCLA or a school somewhere on the east coast. Eighth grader **Gloria Chukwueke's** favorite subject in school is world history. She favors this particular subject because she loves to learn about things in the past that contributed to making the United States what it is today. Her hobbies are collecting shoes, drawing, and dancing. Gloria's favorite sports are long distance running, basketball, and football. One of her biggest dreams is to graduate with honors from high school, and then attend a four-year college such as Harvard, UC Berkley, UC Davis, or the University of Tennessee. She would like to be a surgeon that operates in an emergency room. As eighth grader **Susan Hagos** enters college in 2009, she would like to attend UCSD, UCLA, UC Davis, or Stanford University. There, she would like to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a pediatrician and earning her Ph.D. She wants to become a doctor because this was her father's dream. He was not able to fulfill this dream because the price of college was so high, he did not have a high school diploma, and he was drafted into the military. **Latifah Smith**, an eighth grader, excelled in math and science during elementary school. In kindergarten, she joined the Girl Scouts as a Daisy, and started ballet. She also started playing tackle football and has been playing ever since. She has been crowned Spelling Bee champion every year since kindergarten. She has won numerous Urban League awards and science and math are still her favorite subjects. Some career options she has considered are neurologist, nuclear physicist, biochemist, college professor in either math or science, or genealogist. She is really interested in taking up a profession in science.

Trinity Junior High School – Fort Smith, Arkansas

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith/Southside High School



Left to right: Jimmy Vo, Blake Palmer, Ethan Tate, Taber Hunt, Jacob Teeter, Tia Marsh (Coach)

Team Coach: **Letitia (Tia) Marsh** is a first-year theology teacher at Trinity Junior High in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She sponsors and coaches the Quiz Bowl and Science Bowl Teams, is the school's Liturgy Coordinator, and directs the student Choir. She is a mother of four — three in college and one in high school. Tia is an avid reader, is hooked on TV's "Amazing Race," and enjoys traveling with her husband of 26 years, Tom. Tia earned her Bachelor's of Business degree at John Brown University, and has further studies and certification in Roman Catholic theology.

Team Members: **Taber Hunt** is an eighth grader. An involved student, Taber is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, he plays Varsity football and basketball, runs track, and is a starting player for Trinity's 3A State Champion Varsity Quiz Bowl Team. He also enjoys playing video games, especially NBA Street. Taber intends to pursue a career in architecture. **Blake Palmer** is an eighth grade student. Academically, his favorite subjects are English and science. Blake is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and likes to participate in a variety of sports, with his top choice being basketball. Recreationally, Blake loves to play video games, especially Halo 2. College plans include attendance at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. **Ethan Tate** is an eighth grader. His favorite subjects are science and English. Ethan is a member of Trinity's Varsity Quiz Bowl Team and the National Junior Honor Society, as well as the Science Bowl Team. Hobbies include filmmaking, playing the piano, and playing video games, with the Metal Gear series being a favorite. Ethan plans on attending USC and majoring in filmmaking. **Jacob Teeter** is a seventh grader who participates in the Science Bowl, is a starter on the school's State 3A Champion Varsity Quiz Bowl Team, is the current Spelling Bee champion at TJH, and is on the tennis team. Jacob's favorite classes include anything related to mythology or science, and his SEEP (Student Educational Enrichment Program – gifted and talented) Class. He is an avid reader. Jacob's future plans include a career in medicine. **Jimmy Vo** is an eighth grader. His favorite subject in school is science, with achievements including membership in the National Junior Honor Society, a first place finish in the ACTM Regional Mathematics Competition, and third place in the regional MathCounts competition. Jimmy enjoys sports and video games, such as the Metal Gear series.

Solving the Puzzle of Life

Two Rivers Magnet Middle School – East Hartford, Connecticut

Woodstock Union Middle School



Left to right: Mary Bugbee, Edmund Smith (Coach), Jonathan Wickliff, Karthik Choutagunta, Robert Joseph (Joe) Molleur, Divya Prakash, Caitlin Moss

Team Coaches: **Lisa Moss** has been assisting the Science Bowl Team since September. She has been preparing questions and providing students with an after school place to study and work on the hydrogen fuel cell car in her home. She is extremely active in the school PTO and holds an executive board position. For over 10 years, she has also been active in community service with the South Windsor Jr. Women's Club. **Edmund J. Smith** teaches eighth grade science and has taught for 14 years. He is the coach of the school's Science Bowl Team and has been active in recruiting and training other Connecticut schools for this event. He also advises the Chess Club and is helping to organize the largest Bioblitz ever held — 150 scientists from as far away as Canada will be racing the 24-hour clock to inventory all plant and animal species within a 2-mile radius of the school. Mr. Smith attended the University of Connecticut for both his B.A. and M.A. He has three children, Ruby, Sagan, and Huckleberry, with his wife, Pauline.

Team Members: **Mary Bugbee** is in the eighth grade. When she grows up, she would like to be an equine veterinarian, an astronomer, or a chemical engineer. She enjoys horseback riding, reading, and running. **Joe Molleur**, the team captain, is an eighth grader. He is a Master Sergeant in the Civil Air Patrol and hopes to attend the Air Force Academy to become a pilot. Joe plays ice hockey and his favorite subjects are science and math. He will be attending the University High School of Science and Technology in September. **Caitlin Moss** is in the eighth grade. She enjoys reading, playing the flute, chatting with her friends, and swimming. She is a member of the Art Club and Mensa. She was recently accepted into the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth. Her favorite subjects are science and English. Caitlin will be attending the Ethel Walker School in September and plans to pursue a career in biology. Eighth grader **Divya Prakash** is an avid reader and is especially interested in the classics and European history. Divya has played tennis and soccer for nine years. In addition to Science Bowl Team, Divya has also been a participant in MathCounts, Student Government, and an Engineering Program. She is currently taking courses with The Johns Hopkins Program. Her favorite subjects are algebra and science. Divya plans on becoming a cryptologist, computer engineer, or something in the field of mathematics. **Jonathan Wickliff** is an eighth grader who enjoys running track and cross country as well as playing tennis. Jon teaches tennis lessons in the summer at a local swim and tennis club. He also enjoys other activities, such as band and Science Quiz Bowl. His favorite subjects are PE and science. He plans on going to college in the South and hopes to go into finance after graduate school.

Van Antwerp Middle School – Niskayuna, New York

GE Global Research Center and KAPL, Inc.



Left to right: Connie Soron (Coach), Alex Yepikhin, Spencer Reid, Eli Grant, Matthew Barnes, Evan Szakats

Team Coaches: **Dennis Frank** has been a teacher in the Niskayuna Central School District for 13 years. Besides teaching, Mr. Frank enjoys playing the piano, reading, and traveling. Mr. Frank received his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Texas and a Master's of Management from the Kellogg School of Northwestern University. **Connie Soron** is an eighth grade physical science teacher in Niskayuna. Connie's emphasis in her classes revolves around the science that happens every day in her student's lives. Having taught many different grades including college level, Mrs. Soron, a nationally board certified teacher, thoroughly enjoys teaching middle school level science. Besides spending the summers looking for new ideas to bring to her classes, Mrs. Soron loves reading, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Team Members: **Matthew Barnes** is an eighth grader who enjoys baseball, tennis, and hiking. He also plays guitar in the jazz band and has already made the highest level jazz band at the high school for next year. He especially likes playing blues, as well as rock and classical. At home, he has his Mom, Dad, and year younger brother, Brian. **Eli Grant** is an eighth grader. He is on the wrestling team and plans to be on the high school volleyball team next year. He loves to bowl, but most of all, he loves cows. Eli is really enjoying himself on the Science Bowl Team and has "udder" confidence in the rest of his team. Science is one of his favorite subjects. As captain of his team, he knows that the other members are just as important as he is, and together, they make up a team that is greater than the sum of its parts. Eighth grader **Spencer Reid** is a person of controversy. He enjoys playing RPG games that involve dice and paper, loves computer (and Xbox) games, but is also active in the physical world in paintball and Junior Varsity track. Spencer has a nasty habit of sneaking onto his PC games when he is not supposed to, leading to dire consequences. His least favorite subject is English because there are too many violations to all the rules. Spencer plans to go into a firm that designs "tools" for the military, maybe even Lockheed Martin. He has been interested in this field ever since he began to play Command and Conquer games. **Evan Szakats** is an eighth grader who enjoys playing the piano, reading, playing guitar, and watching television. He also likes to play soccer and tennis. Evan's favorite classes are science and social studies. Evan plans on attending Harvard University and becoming a lawyer. This past year, Evan had a very large role in his school production of "A Midsummer's Night Midterm," a take on the classic Shakespeare play. He also participates in his church's youth group and the local Youth to Youth chapter, a worldwide group whose goals are to promote drug-free fun for kids. Eighth grader **Alex Yepikhin** is 14 years old. He likes to play baseball and to read. He also likes to spend time with his friends and snowboards during the winter.

Solving the Puzzle of Life



Left to right: Rosie Steinbach (Mascot), John Steinbach, Rik Smoody (Coach), Kirben Smoody, Amando Lopatka, Caleb Genly, Peter Shoaf, James Shoaf

Team Coaches: **Darrell Owens** has a B.S. in geology from the University of Oregon. He has worked in hydrology, surveying, mapping, mining, and quarrying. Darrell has taught homeschool students grades 1-12 for the last five years, and has tutored students. He is currently a leader for third to sixth grade boys at his church, and is past-president of the NW Rett Syndrome Foundation. Darrell has a wife, Jean, and three children, Matthew (17), Sarah (15) who has Rett Syndrome, and Hannah (11). **Rik Smoody** is an object-oriented programmer. He sometimes teaches graduate and upper-division college computer science classes. He has also taught various math, science, and computer science classes at Saturday Academy, grade schools, and a high school. Rik likes hiking, kayaking, skiing, dancing, and puzzles. He believes that even bright kids deserve peers to collaborate with.

Team Members: **Caleb Genly** is an eighth grader who studies at home, at Village Home, and sometimes at a private school. **James Shoaf** is in the eighth grade. His three years of homeschooling have included correspondence courses with Calvert School and Internet-based instruction through Stanford University's Educational Program for Gifted Youth. He enjoys math and science, which he plans to build into a career in dentistry. James likes to collect cards, draw, play games of all kinds, and refine the details of Flash cartoons — animated adventures which he posts on the 'Net. He enjoys Tae Kwon Do and climbing the walls at the local rock gym. He joined the Scouting program as a Tiger Cub and expects to finish his Eagle rank this summer. **Peter Shoaf** is an eighth grader who takes some courses online through Stanford. His hobbies are making Flash cartoons and playing games. He plays tennis with his brothers and practices rock climbing at the local gym. He is a Life rank Boy Scout and will probably be Eagle this fall. His favorite subjects are biology and creative writing. When he grows up, he wants to be an orthodontist. Some interesting facts about Peter are that he is working on ambidexterity and that he is totally a dominator at Halo. **Kirben Smoody** is a sixth grader. He is all for researching stem cells and hydrogen cars. He likes Legos, OMSI, science fairs, computers, experimenting with erosion, hiking, MIDI, and producing animation. He would like to be a paleontologist someday. **John Steinbach** is in the eighth grade. His interests and hobbies include basketball, fencing, collectible card games (Star Wars, Lord of the Rings), and acting. He is a lifeguard and participates in the Yearbook Club. His favorite subjects in school are biology, animal behavior, earth science, and drama. He plans to work as a basketball coach or sports broadcaster or writer, and/or some area of science, and/or to be an actor. He was a Bronze Medal winner at the Northwest Science Expo in April 2005.

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